BENGALURU, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 17 | Humidity 53% Misty morning and partly cloudy. Sensex 58,014 | Nifty 17,339 | Gold 47,738 | Silver 61,322 | Dollar 74.63 | Euro 83.57 | GBP 100.29

BACK TO SCHOOL, AGAIN

Kids make a beeline for classes once more

PAGE 2

LAKE VIEW We're here to save the lake

PAGE 5

Search is on for children aged 15-17, who aren't attending school, to get them vaxxed sooner

THE LONG AND SHOT OF IT

'In January, we have had 9 paediatric deaths'

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Almost a month on, over 71% of children in the 15-17 age group in Karnataka have been vaccinated in the children's vaccination drive that began on January 3.

The focus now is on vaccinating out-of-school children. Health officials are reaching out to various departments and NGOs to gather details of this particular group.

Out of the 31,75,105 targeted projected population, January 30 data suggested 22,53,978 have been vaccinated, covering 71%. In the remaining 29%, government officials pointed out, the majority are in the out-of-school category.

In the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits there has been 62% coverage. Out of the 4,42,786 targeted population, so far 2,74,116 children have been vaccinated.

BBMP chief health officer Dr AS Balasundar said: "Over 8-10% of children aged 15-18 years may not be going to school, due to various reasons. To reach out to them, we have contacted Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), which most children attend after standard 10, where they are trained in different technical fields. We have contacted the women and child welfare department, and labour department, which will have contacts of children under this age group. We are contacting NGOs that work for child protection to give us a list of children to be vaccinated."

According to Balasundar, the majority of the children in schools and colleges are vaccinated: "We organised camps for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"We are gathering statistics from various departments and will organise a camp for out-of-school children and have them vaccinated.
— Dr AS Balasundar, BBMP

STILL A MAN'S WORLD

Curious case of woman corporator's stand-in

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Recently, Benglauru Rural Zilla Panchayat chief executive officer MR Ravi Kumar issued a diktat to disqualify the women members and initiate proceedings if their husbands or any other family members were taking part in administrative affairs.

With BBMP polls yet to be announced, citizen activists are of the view that when the new corporation is formed, the civic agency should bring in a similar directive which has been proposed at the gram panchayat level.

In the letter to Kuluvanahalli gram panchayat near Nelamangala, the CEO said that there have been complaints that during the gram panchayat meeting the women members were either absent or silent while their male kin — not the members of the gram panchayat — were seen exercising the members' duties. This was in gross violation of the gram panchayat rules and hence if any such complaints were reported in the future, the said women gram panchayat members can be disqualified.

Drawing from this order, Prasanna Kumar, a techie and a civic activist said: "During the previous BBMP council, 50% of the seats were reserved for women. However, in many wards, it was the male

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Winter melodies

Take a break from the stress and monotony of work by attending a beautiful musical evening at Lahe Lahe. The session will have musical aficionados come and jam together and form a community of like-minded musical souls. What's more, you can even tune out a few songs of yourself too! **Where: Lahe Lahe, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar; When: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm; Tickets: 9886294444**

02 America in cartoons

If cartoons are your way to de-stress, check out Indian Institute of Cartoonists's showcase: America in cartoons, from Bill to Biden, an exhibition of cartoons and caricatures by New York-based cartoonist Shreyas Navare. The exhibition comprises 101 cartoons and caricatures drawn spanning five US Presidents from 1998 to 2022. This exhibition also includes artworks from Shreyas Navare's travels across various US states for his coverage of the 2012 and 2016 US Presidential Elections through the eyes of a cartoonist. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Craig Park Layout; When: Till February 12**

03 Hot move

Shimmy to some Salsa and Bachata moves by the Motley Dance Company, only at Lahe, Lahe. Join in with family and friends for a more fun experience. **Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar When: Feb 6, 2:30pm onwards Register: 9886294444**

A dollop of hygiene for Bengaluru's street food

Vendors will be trained in FSSAI standards and be given certificates of authorisation

Shreyashi Mukherjee and & Shreya Bn
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For the first time in Bengaluru, street food vendors will be trained in FSSAI standards and awarded certificates to operate, according to sources in BBMP. As a pilot project, this certification will be done in western zones at Gandhinagar, Malleswaram, Rajajinagar, Mahalakshmi layout, Govindarajanagar and Chamarajpet assembly constituencies and then gradually extended to other areas. "All the food operators are required to be trained in FSSAI guidelines and given certificates. We are asking all the food operators to send details to BBMP for taking part in this certification. We will not allow carts or other food sellers to operate without the requisite certificate."

According to the FSSAI regulations, the street vendors will now be mandated to display their FSSAI license/registration number in their carts. The food safety display boards (FSBDs) present information about the hygiene practices that are being followed by the vendor.

The vendors agree that it is a good step. However, they are also scared about the possible corruption.

Bilal, a panipuri seller in Kirloskar Layout said, "I hope no corruption takes place when I apply for my certificate because the business was running low during the first and the second wave and I had major losses in business." Ashoka N, owner of a chaat cart near Sapthagiri Engineering College, said: "It's a good decision. The customers will feel more confident to come and eat from my cart."

There are certain requirements the street vendors need to keep in mind while they are preparing the FSBDs: information should be mentioned on an A4 size paper, a minimum of 1 FSDB should be displayed on the cart of the vendor. The content of the FSDB should not get blurred over time.

A streetfood vendor dishes out dosas at Sajjan Rao Circle

Vendors should remember to

- Keep carts clean and pest-free
- Use portable water
- Cook food thoroughly and maintain the temperatures of the food items
- Handle and store veg and non-veg food items separately
- Store cold food at cool temperatures
- Use separate chopping boards, knives, etc for raw/cooked/veg/non-veg food
- Wear clean clothes/uniform
- Wash hands frequently
- Use water-proof bandage to cover cuts or burn wounds
- Do not handle food when unwell
- Use clean and separate dusters to clean surfaces and wipe utensils
- Keep separate and covered dustbins for food waste

"Lavanya BH, an entrepreneur, said: "It is very necessary for one to maintain cleanliness and use fresh products for snacks. Bengalureans consume street food and are very much prone to getting sick. It's better to avoid them and consume it rarely at a very hygienic place".

Swaroop, a student added that people eat a lot of junk food because many times, there is no food at home. One of my friends fell sick a lot because of the poor hygiene in that place. Many of them don't even wash their hands."

Kids make a beeline for school once more

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As classroom reopened in Bengaluru, many schools wore a rather deserted look as parents wanted to wait and watch before sending their kids to school.

For those opting for classroom-learning, school managements have arranged thermal screening, and sanitisers. Educationist D Shashi Kumar said, "On Sunday, we had asked all our member institutions to take all the necessary SoPs so that we can make schools a safe place to study."

Transport facilities for students have resumed fully. Schools are resending consent letters from parents on kids attending offline classes.

Kiran Prasad, founder of Vidya Vaibhav Educational Institutes and Member of Karnataka Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, said that 70 per cent of students are attending classes in his schools.

"We expect 90 per cent of children to be back by Wednesday. Some are returning to Bengaluru. Unlike the first wave and second wave, there is demand this time to open schools. Parents have realised what their kids are missing out on," he explained.

Shweta Sastri, Managing Director, Canadian International School, said, "With almost two full years of remote lessons, children have missed out on the social and emotional development that happens in an in person setting. Worldwide, the learning loss has been significant."

Mr. Aloysius D'mello, Principal, Greenwood High International School added, "Parents will still be wary of sending their children for fear of them getting infected. Once a few children come to school we expect others will follow."

"For every year's loss they regress in learning by two years. They have missed out on socialising, peer-learning. The government's decision to close down a classroom only if Covid infections are found, is a step in the right direction, Prasad said.

However, some school managements have decided to reopen in a staggered way as they are facing a staff crunch and are waiting for students from outstation areas.

(with inputs from agencies)

KAUSHIK JN

After a hiatus, kids are back in school

Blame game rages over pothole death

A day after a 38-year-old woman died due to a pothole-related accident, the blame game to pin the responsibility for the loss continues. BBMP Chief Engineer BS Pralhad blamed BWSSB for the bad condition of Magadi Road, where the accident took place. Pralhad told reporters, "The death was not caused due to a pothole. It was caused due to BWSSB's work. BWSSB had dug the portion of the road to lay drinking water pipelines for 110 villages. BBMP is not to be blamed for this. Today, we can see how BESCOM is digging roads to lay underground pipelines. I am writing to N Kamal Pant, the city police commissioner. If any negligence is found on the officials' part for not fixing the road, the police must file an FIR against them. BWSSB officials say that they have funds only to lay the pipelines but no money to fix roads. Then, BBMP is forced to seek permission from the government for additional funds to fix the roads. We will take the issue seriously if other authorities are digging the road and not fixing it properly. I will instruct officials to ensure that their roads are in a good condition."

This statement was released after the death of Sharmila, a 38-year-old school teacher who died on Sunday after falling on a bad stretch near Byadarahalli on Magadi Road. She was riding her bike and fell down while trying to avoid the pothole in front of her, it is said. As she fell, the vehicle behind her ran over her and she died on the spot, it is said. **— BMB**

Cops book youth for running over streetie

The police booked Adhi, a 23-year-old, for deliberately running over a streetie sleeping by the roadside, the cops said on Monday.

A case has been lodged under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 Section 11, and IPC Section 428 in this regard. The CCTV footage of the incident has gone viral on social media and has triggered outrage among the public.

The Siddapur police lodged the case following a complaint filed by MS Badri Prasad, resident, Jayanagar. The police have issued notice to the accused to appear for the inquiry in this regard.

The family of the accused informed the police that he has tested positive for Covid and will appear for questioning once he is fit. The incident took place in Jayanagar 1st Block.

The complainant stated that the accused drove purposefully with an intention to kill street dogs. The dog which was run over has not been found despite searches.

The complainant has asked for legal action to be taken against the youth. Investigation is underway. **– IANS**

Toeing the line

CM promises to revise SOPs, traffic cops must follow all rules, be polite to public

Officials must make announcements before towing vehicles

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has promised to revise the current towing policy. After a meeting with Bommai and Kamal Pant, city police commissioner, the joint commissioner of police (traffic) held a meeting with all traffic police personnel asking them to follow SOPs and be polite to the public.

BR Ravikanthe Gowda, joint commissioner of police (traffic) held the meeting on Monday with all DCPs, ACPs, PIs, PSIs and ASIs. He explained the SOPs to them and asked them to follow them properly. The police personnel were told to discharge duties keeping public interest in mind and document all the towing cases with photos and videos.

A senior police officer said that as part of the revision on SOPs, the concerned officials would consult people and experts to revise rules on deployment and rooster system to make TIGERs more people friendly.

A traffic police personnel said, "It is a must to announce before towing vehicles and while towing a certain vehicle, one must wait to see if the owner is around and can come to get the vehicle. If the person arrives at the spot, the officers must impose no parking fine and let the vehicle go instead of towing it. If people retaliate or assault the staff, they must record the entire incident, take help of other officers or call the control room to get reinforcement."

Speaking of contract towing staff, he said that before hiring, their background will be checked and they will be directed to be polite to the public.

Regarding two incidents which took place recently where the public expressed their anger against the cops, a senior officer said that in both cases SOPs were not broken or violated.

"In the first incident, the officer had not towed any vehicle. After the woman threw stones at him, he broke the law and assaulted her for which he was suspended. In the second incident, the delivery executive's two wheeler was parked in front of a no parking board for which video proof is available. After he requested the officer, the vehicle was let go without fine. The person has also clarified the same and no SOP was broken in this case as well," he said.

Bangalore Mirror

Traffic cop suspended for assaulting woman

The city police commissioner suspended the ASI from Halasuru Gate traffic police station after he was spotted in a viral video assaulting a differently abled woman. The woman, Manjula, 37, was allegedly pelting stones at the towing truck on JC Road when one of the stones hit Ali Narayana, who was sitting inside the vehicle. State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said that everyone must follow the law and police officials are no exception.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has ordered a meeting assisting a delivery executive, has gone viral on social media. The staff attached to the JB Nagar Traffic Police Station had towed the executive's bike and the executive was seen running behind the vehicle. The incident occurred a few days ago and passersby had recorded the incident.
— BMB

Bangalore Mirror: Viral: Traffic cop assaults woman

BM's story on January 31 reported that a traffic policeman was suspended for assaulting a differently abled woman after she threw a stone at him

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Design challenge brews hope for better spaces

Entries of citizens for Urban Revamp Design Challenge to be reviewed for implementation by BBMP

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Citizens pitched in cost-effective and replicable ideas to transform neighbourhoods into usable public spaces as part of the Urban Revamp Design Challenge. Top entries will be evaluated for implementation by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The challenge, organised by Sensing Local, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship and Janaagraha, focuses on Banaswadi and Doddanekundi. Out of 41 design proposals, 10 have been shortlisted by a panel of experts and BBMP officials. The winning entry from the Doddanekundi category is titled 'Convergence at Crossroads'.

"We wanted to build upon the existing culture and incorporate requirements of two user groups: the local people in the areas and the people migrating to the locality. The design has been planned to preserve the cultural significance of the place while improving facilities. We are reimagining the village square to serve dual purposes so during festivals, it can be converted into a place for celebration," said Saumil Patel, a member of the group.

The group has made suggestions like creating non-motorised transport lanes in roads leading to the Doddanekundi Lake and transforming the existing compound walls of wedding halls.

The challenge was organised by Sensing Local, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship and Janaagraha

Priyanka Krishnan, member of the group that secured the second place, said, "Doddanekundi is a vibrant locality. Many migrant communities are unaware of its history. The urban redesign will raise awareness about its culture and history. For festivities, we proposed a festival street. We want the spaces to be inclusive of everyone, including the visually differently abled."

The group's proposal aims for traffic management, solid waste management, improved street walkability and efficient stormwater management.

BangaloreMirror
Did you know urban revamp design challenge is interested in your vision for Bengaluru?
SPACE ODDITY
How to nurture an inclusive city

BM had reported on Nov 14, 2021 that Doddanekundi and Banaswadi were the chosen ones for design revamp

"We need to change our attitude about spaces around Rajakaluves. We have made the Rajakaluve the centrepiece of the urban space. This will convert the space into a one-km-long community garden around the Rajakaluve. It could transform into a park too when there are no flash floods. The idea is to enable community engagement," said Rajesh Renganathan, member of the group that proposed the winning entry for Banaswadi.

> **Apart from quality, we also looked at the practicality of the designs. We have started conversations with the project dept**
> –Sobia Rafiq, co-founder, Sensing Local

The group plans to enable growth of vegetables and fruits in these spaces to sell in the communal market plaza.

"Our entry, '1 Mile', reimagines the one-mile neighbourhood street area as an ecologically sensitive area and prioritises pedestrians and non-motorised vehicles. We intend to reduce the street width and utilise a part of it to create public spaces. These spaces can transform into vending zones, community gardens or play areas for children. As part of Phase 2-B, we will be getting a metro station in the future and encourage use of non-motorised transport vehicles by implementing non-motorised transport streets. We have identified modes of transport that will act as last-mile connectivity," said Kevin George, member of the group that came second in the Banaswadi category.

"Apart from the quality of the proposals, we also looked at the practicality of the designs. We have started conversations with the projects department. Soon, we will be presenting a plan to BBMP and begin the process," said Sobia Rafiq, co-founder, Sensing Local.

Singh meets DKS, sparks speculation

Minister Anand Singh of BJP and Karnataka Congress President D K Shivakumar met at the latter's residence on Monday. This sparked speculation, amid recent claims by opposition party leaders that some ruling party leaders, including ministers, have been in touch with them to jump ship ahead of 2023.

However, Shivakumar and Singh told reporters that they only met regarding a tourism project in the Congress leaders' assembly constituency. "I had seen Tunga aarti. To develop tourism in our constituency, I had requested for a programme to be worked out so that a similar aarti can be organised at the sangam of Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers near Mekedatu in my constituency. He (Singh) has said that he will send a team," Shivakumar said.

> **Singh, a member of the Basavaraj Bommai-led cabinet, driving to the KPCC chief's residence in a private car has raised eyebrows in political circles**

"He (Singh) is a minister. If he has come openly to my house, how can he come with a political motive? No one will do that. Politics is done either at hotels or guest houses, not at homes," he said and added, "All of us have that much common sense... I am a senior leader. He personally came to explain about the proposed programme. There's nothing else."

Singh told reporters that as Shivakumar already clarified reasons behind the meeting, there is nothing more for him to say.

He also clarified that he harbours no discontent regarding his appointment as a district in-charge minister for Koppal.

However, according to reports, Singh is unhappy with the chief minister's decision to appoint him as district in-charge minister for Koppal, instead of the newly-carved Vijayanagara district, which is his native.

Meanwhile, not wanting to respond about the meeting, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "....you have to ask them (about it)."

Earlier, Singh had openly expressed his disgruntlement, as Bommai allocated him the Environment, Ecology and Tourism portfolios.

—Agencies

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Problems in your area?
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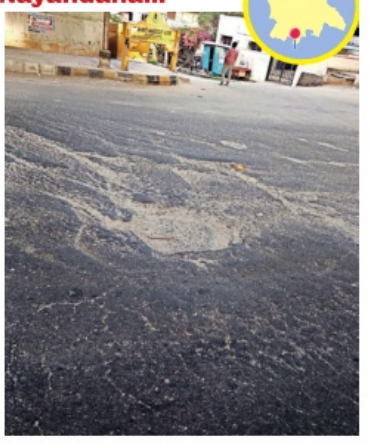
Make way
Jnana Jyothi Nagar

Overgrown weeds have taken over the pavement on 80 Feet Road. The sidewalk is not fit to be used by pedestrians and must be reconstructed.

Hole in the road
Nayandahalli



The Nayandahalli Main Road is in a bad condition due to a pothole. The road must be repaired as it is the route to Mysuru and carries heavy traffic everyday.

Sweeping neglect
Vijayanagar

The bus stop is covered in sand, debris, dust and waste. Will the authorities concerned clean this spot?

Horticulture Dept's mind set on tree park in forest

Despite opposition, Dept has submitted plan to make park inside JB Kaval forest

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Environmentalists are stepping up the pressure as the government seems set on converting the Jarakabande (JB) Kaval forest into a tree park. Despite opposition, the Horticulture Department is getting ready to push on with the plan.

JB Kaval is among the few remaining reserve forests in the city. The government's proposal to transform this eco-sensitive place into a park faced stiff opposition from the public. The proposed park is spread across 430 acres which include 75 acres of reserve forest and 355 acres of revenue land. The Horticultural Department has submitted a proposal to the Government and the file is sent to the Forest and Revenue departments.

The Horticultural Department officials say the park will attract tourists as it is near Kempegowda International Airport and close to the Andhra Pradesh border. When built, the biggest park in the city will become a tourist center and be a landmark achievement for the Government, they said.

The officials said once the land is acquired, a blueprint will be prepared by internationally renowned architects.

JB Kaval is the only lung space near the city in Bengaluru North.

Environmentalists have been questioning the need to tamper with this eco-sensitive area that is home to many animals, birds

In 1896, the British Government had announced it as a reserve forest. In 1963, the State Government also announced it as a reserve forest. This forest has more than 56 species of trees, some of which are more than 50 years old. It includes more than 120 species of birds, snakes, and insects. There are wild boars, peacocks, rabbits, and foxes living here. As of now, it is open to the public for walking. The proposed budget for land acquisition is Rs.800 crore which will be paid to farmers and landowners of the proposed park.

An official from the Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner's office said, "Recently, a meeting was held to develop the park in JB Kaval. For increasing green cover in the city, we have decided to hand over revenue land in Bannerghatta National Park. This will reduce the Human-Animal conflict in the region."

Knock, Knock. Who's there? We're here to save the lake

Residents pleas heard: Plan afoot to remove encroachments from and fence Halnayakanahalli Lake at long last

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The Halnayakanahalli Lake received some water during the rain in October and November, but it will dry up pretty soon

The Halnayakanahalli lake that is spread across 82 acres, located off Sarjapur Road has been quietly fading off. Bangalore Mirror too had reported about the pathetic state of the lake. The good news is there might be some relief to the residents nearby and the lake, as the Chief Engineer of minor irrigation department (MID), has asked the panchayat officials and tahsildar to remove encroachments, while the MID will have to carry out fencing around the lake.

Since 2014, the residents have been complaining about the lake and asking for it to be rejuvenated. Four months ago, a resident of Chikkanayakanahalli, Arif Mudgal filed an RTI, on the encroachment of the lake, to which he finally got a response from the MID stating and accepting that there have been encroachments in and around the lake.

It stated that the encroachments should be removed and a clear boundary around the lake periphery needs to created while even fencing needs to be carried out.

The CE of MID in the letter directed Bengaluru Tahsildar, KR Puram, panchayat development officer (PDO), Revenue Department to take necessary action and remove the encroachments at the lake. While the assistant executive engineer of Minor Department will have to make the fence.

The residents have been fighting for the lake's revival for years. They have reached out to the officials to carry out a survey for the lake, to check upon the land encroachments.

"The lake had become a barren piece of land. With the recent rains during October and November, water had filled up, however it will go dry again. The lake has encroachments where some shops have come up, while other forms of encroachment also exist. Many private players are waiting to grab the lake land," said Mudgal.

BangaloreMirror
THE SHRINKING SHAPE OF WATER
Remove encroachments, KSPCB letter says
House of cards
BM's report on Nov 4, 2021

While he pointed out that the PDO has reserved Rs 20 lakh for the development of the Halnayakanahalli lake, but so far they have not initiated any work at the premises to revive the lake or even create a boundary line of fencing.

> **Some shops have come up here and it has other encroachments too. Many private players are waiting to grab the lake land**
>
> –Arif Mudgal, resident of the area

"Four months after I filed RTI, I got an response after multiple follow ups. In the letter it was suggested that the MID and panchayat officials take up the onus and have encroachments removed and fence the lake. It could be of some relief to us, if this is taken up seriously and the work is started," he added.

Some of the residents even pointed out that construction debris is dumped on the lake bed and times even garbage is disposed of here.

Metro contract with Chinese firm in trouble

The contract between the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and China's CRRC Corporation Ltd's subsidiary -- Nanjing Puzhen Co. Ltd -- of supplying 216 metro coaches at a cost of Rs 1,578 crore has run into problems. The BMRCL is getting ready to act on the inordinate delay in the supply of coaches, according to Karnataka government sources. The contract for manufacturing 216 coaches was awarded to the Chinese firm in December 2019 as it won the bid. The firm got the contract as it asked for nearly Rs 200 crore less than the nearest competitor.

However, the supply of coaches to BMRCL has been delayed as the Chinese firm is said to be finding it difficult to find local partners for the process of assembling, testing and commissioning them.

The BMRCL has issued several notices to the firm. —IANS

Tension at BU campus

Violence broke out at the Bangalore University as police resorted to a lathi charge against ABVP members who were protesting a delay in marks cards near main campus. A few students were injured in the incident. On Monday morning, around 120 ABVP protestors assembled near the gate. On the other hand, around 100 post graduate students were protesting against the Raichur incident. Then post graduate students objected to ABVP's demand stating that most of the protestors were not from BU. Soon, heated arguments broke out between them and sensing trouble, the police intervened. However, the students pushed the police officials and police had to resort to mild lathi charge.

Out-of-school vax coverage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those attending schools and colleges. We have reached out to more than 60% of Bengaluru schools. We are now trying to get help from other departments to vaccinate other children. We are gathering statistics from various departments and will organise a camp for out-of-school children and have them vaccinated. NGOs that work with children in this age group are asked to get them vaccinated at the nearest primary health centres (PHCs)," said Balasundar.

Until Sunday, as per the data on CoWIN portal, Gadag had the highest number of vaxxed children (aged 15-17) at 99%, followed by Kodagu at 97% and Udupi at third spot at 88%. Bengaluru Urban reported 85% coverage and Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada posted 83%. Kolar and Bagalkot posted 81% coverage each. Over 10 districts had vaccine coverage between 70-79% and 12 districts between 60-69%.

BBMP was the third lowest at 62% coverage and Raichur the second lowest at 61%, with Gulbarga at 59% coverage.

On Sunday, vaccination coverage of children saw very low numbers, with just 2,171 jabs. The reason attributed was because schools and colleges were shut on the weekend.

Health and family welfare commissioner Randeep D stated that the number of children's vaccination on a day-to-day basis has come down and the health department is looking at scaling up. "In January, we had nine pediatric deaths. Vaccination is an essential component in fighting the virus. We have to convince parents and teachers associations' to get children vaccinated. With schools and colleges closed down due to sudden surge in cases, the number of jabs administered had merely come down; however, now, with the educational institutions reopening, we can cover the ones who haven't taken the jabs yet," said Randeep.

Randeep pointed out that reaching out-of-school children is indeed a challenge: "The ground level workers will have data of children who are out of schools; they are working with district officials to gather statistics. At many of the work sites we may find teenagers engaged in minor works. They can receive their vaccine shots. The district officials will have to reach out to the labour and revenue department, to reach out to these children. The focus has been to cover school and college going children first, and look into the other children, further on."

Cases dip in state

With the state still short of 100% vax coverage, covid-19 cases further dipped to 24,172 in the last 24 hours while Bengaluru's daily tally was 10,692. About 56 deaths, including 12 in Bengaluru, were reported.

To increase the vaccination coverage, BBMP chief commissioner Gaurav Gupta signed a MoU for door-to-door vaccination drive taken up by Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) under the aegis of CSR Expert Committee in association with the Palike.

Till now, 1,67,58,143 doses of vaccines have been administered; 97% first doses and 82% second doses.

Health minister Dr K Sudhakar said cases were decreasing in the last four days: "Though a few districts are still reporting high numbers, hospitalisation is low at 2-3% while fatality rate is at 0.05%. Karnataka stands first among major states for higher vaccination coverage with 100% first dose coverage 87% second dose coverage."

Woman corporator who wasn't there

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members of the corporator's family who were running the show. I have had a personal experience where I had contacted a woman corporator to fix an issue but it was her husband who attended the call. When I insisted that I needed to speak to the corporator, he told me that his wife didn't know anything and he was the de-facto corporator."

Manjunath K, a civic activist said: "The reason for providing reservation is to encourage women. However, a few try to misuse this by usurping power which is against the purpose. Without any pulls and pressures from the family, we need to encourage women representatives. Earlier, when there were women corporators, I had called up a woman corporator for some work. Her husband answered the call. I asked him if I could speak to the corporator.

However, he said he was the real corporator and I needed to speak to him to get the work done. Finally, I could never connect to the real corporator. This should not happen."

Kamala R, a homemaker and a civic activist said, "We were earlier proud that a city like Benglauru had greater representation of women in civic works. My ward was represented by a woman corporator; she would hardly come for ward visits. Instead, it was her husband who would always do the rounds. Being a woman, I feel that the woman corporators should not be just for namesake and instead be real administrators. If a woman is restricted to the kitchen even after winning the ward elections, what is the use of having reservation? I feel the gram panchayat order is the real eye opener which needs to be implemented here while the new BBMP council takes shape."

Many hope the latest GP order doesn't end up merely on paper and instead be implemented across the state.

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I, John M Patrick S/o Arokiaswamy residing at No. 24, 20th F Cross road, Eijipura village, Bangalore-560047 have changed my daughter minor son name from JAYDEN SHAWN to JAYDEN SHAWN THOMAS vide affidavit dated 31.01.2022 sworn before notary S. Samuel Solomon, Bangalore.

I Neetu Singh, D/o Ranbir Singh, W/o Subodh Sharma residing at 168, Jindal Aluminium Ltd, Jindal Nagar, 16th Km, Tumkur Road, Bangalore - 560073 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Neetu Sharma

I, THOMAS KAPIL MALIAKKAL RAPPAI R/o 64, 6th MAIN, 9th CROSS, PILLAPPA BLOCK, GANGANAGAR, RT NAGAR POST, BENGALURU - 560032 have changed my name to THOMAS KAPIL

I Mohana H S/O, Hemaraju B R/o No 20/17, Doddakammanahalli Main Road, B G Road, Gottigere Post, Bengaluru-560083, have changed my name to Mohan H

I, Ashima D/o Rajiv Malhotra R/o Flat 302 Site No 2 Aadithyam 1st A Cross 3 Main Kaverappa Layout Kadubeesan -halli Bangalore 560103 have changed my name to Ashima Malhotra for all purposes.

I Harsh Deepak Motwani S/O, Deepak L Motwani R/o Flat # 304, Anand Altair, 26/3 Bcmc Layout, Raghuvanahalli, Kanakapura Road, Benagaluru - 560062 have changed my name to Harsh Motwani

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The long wait: Trying times for accident victim's family

Ambulance driver takes 19-year-old teenager and his family from Channapatna to private facility after they are turned away from two prominent government hospitals

Pragna L Krupa
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Families are sometimes left at the mercy of ambulance drivers to find a hospital for treatment

The family of a 19-year-old, who had met with an accident at his hometown in Channapatna and was referred to a prominent medical facility for treatment, had to go through a harrowing time in the city.

After two hospitals allegedly turned the family away claiming they had no beds or couldn't treat him, the family landed up in a private hospital. Here the BPL-card-holding family has been slapped with a gigantic bill they are struggling to pay off. And the boy is not completely fine too.

Azan (not his real name), crashed his two-wheeler on December 21 as he experienced a seizure while riding. He was taken to a government hospital in the village. The hospital referred him to the first medical centre as he had injuries on his head. Azan's family immediately brought him to the city.

His brother told Bangalore Mirror, that they reached the facility around 10 am and had to wait outside till 2 pm but no one responded to them. Later they were informed the boy had to be put on a ventilator. They referred the family to the second facility. "We waited outside till late evening but were told that ventilator beds were not available. We are new to the city so we did not know which hospital to visit," he said.

They asked the hospital staff to refer them to another government hospital as they are BPL card holders but did not get help, he said. "At least 30 other ambulances were waiting outside with us. The ambulance driver took us to a private hospital on Mysore Road. We did not know about the hospital but they began treatment for his lungs. He had sustained head injury along with fractures on his left hand and left leg but none of that was treated by the doctors here. He was admitted there for 37 days of which he was on a ventilator for 19 days and in ICU for the remaining days. The doctors at the first hospital had told us that he could be treated for the head injury only after his lungs are treated," he said.

He said Azan's fractures are still not fixed as the hospital does not have an orthopaedic surgeon. "They get the doctor from outside who charges Rs. 2,000 per visit. The hospital overcharged us for everything and we spent nearly Rs. 2 lakh only on medicines and they have given us a bill of Rs. 5 lakh," he said.

So far, they have been able to pay only half of it. "When they realised we can't pay anymore, they told us he is completely recovered and can be discharged.

They then forced us to clear all the bills. We told them that we can't pay such a huge amount in the initial days itself, they did not refer us to another hospital or ask us to shift. My brother still cannot sit or lift his hand but they are asking us to clear the bills and leave," he said.

A staff from the hospital said they have helped them with certain bed charges and they need to pay the remaining Rs. 1.9 lakh.

We spoke to an ambulance driver to understand why the family was taken to a private hospital and he alleged that some drivers and government hospital staff are in on it together. He claimed they would get a cut from certain hospitals for bringing patients in.

> **"When they realised we can't pay anymore, they told us he has recovered and can be discharged**
> – Azan's brother

"Though there are government hospitals like Bowring and KC General hospital for BPL card patients where the beds are available, most of the patients are diverted to private hospitals and the families struggle to pay the bills," he said.

NEET and CET classes from first PU, now

The Department of Pre-University Education has decided to train students for the CET and NEET exam from the first year of their PU.

"CET and NEET coaching would really be helpful for students from first year because you can't sum up everything at the end and it will be a burden when you just want to study for the exam," says Priyanka, first-year PCMB student.

Pallavi, a Student of Govt PU college, Tumukuru said: "I have always had this thought in my mind that I can't achieve what I dream of, but now, I feel confident after this announcement. There are no coaching classes and I come from a lower middle-class family where they can't afford to buy me a cellphone for online classes too.

"It was very difficult for me to cope with my studies with the pandemic and no proper guidance. The government has taken the right step and will help students, especially in the rural areas. If you are planning to join a coaching, it's better if you take coaching from 11th standard."

Error-free applications

Dr C N Ashwatha Narayana, Minister for Higher Education, has instructed the Director, Department of Pre-University Education, to conduct special training for students at respective college levels about filling in applications in an appropriate manner for CET/NEET/JEE through GET CET GO, an online state initiative.

According to him, many students seeking entry for engineering, medical, and other professional courses through examinations conducted by Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) make mistakes while filling in columns such as Annual Income, Category, Name, Date of Birth, Course Selection, etc. for which, opportunity to become eligible is being lost.

To avoid such mistakes and increase the chances of eligibility for professional courses, training needs to be conducted, he said.

— Shreya BN

Bengaluru Brevet: Cycling against the odds

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Around 95 cyclists from Bengaluru challenged themselves to pedal 200 kilometres in 13 and a half hours on Saturday. They started out at 6 in the morning from Konark Kanteerava, travelled through Hosakote, Vijayapura, Chikkaballapur, Persandra, Avalabetta, Devanahalli and Hebbal and made it back to Konark Kanteerava by 7.30 in the evening.

"Whether you finish at 7.30 or 7.20, it doesn't matter. It's not a race. Getting into a community, exploring the countryside, tasting local food along the way and making friends is why we participate in the sport. The cycling community motivates each other and people get a break from their regular routine. It is challenging but there's personal satisfaction to each one in overcoming those challenges," says Mohan Subramaniam, who organised the cycling brevet.

Mohan is a part of the cycling club Bangalore Randonneurs which organises one or two cycling rides every month. Randonneuring is a long-distance cycling sport. In randonneuring, riders attempt courses of 200 km or more, passing through predetermined 'controls' every few tens of kilometres.

"When doing such events, people need to be physically and mentally fit. They need to study the route. They need to plan food and hydration, overcome weather and terrain. You need to regularly practice. Start with 50 km, then 100, then work your way up to 200 km," says Mohan.

"I wanted to see if I'll be able to complete this task of riding 200 km across Bangalore to Avalabetta and back. I'm happy I completed it just on time," says Aditya Modi, 46.

"I have participated in two rides earlier. It was a tough ride as Avalabetta is a pretty steep climb. The biggest challenge is the mental strength needed. There will be times you'll be cycling in the hot sun and alone, and the terrains can be tough," Aditya adds.

"I had a serious sports injury for which I had to undergo ACL surgery twice. Since last year I started participating in these BRM rides to be undeterred by the injury. I'm not going to stop even if the injury tries to stop me. My injury motivated me to explore my limits," says Bhagyashree Sawant, 30, who is a psychologist by profession.

Around 95 cyclists pedalled 200 kilometres in 13 and a half hours

"Saturday's ride was very challenging for me because my cycle had punctured thrice and I exhausted all the tubes that I had. Some fellow riders helped, fortunately. At one point, I had to stop to pump the tire every 2 km. In spite of everything that happened, I finished an hour early," she adds.

Karnataka's pride
Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid & Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023

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Economy well-placed to take on challenges

Economic Survey: Growth to be supported by vaccine coverage, supply-side reforms, easing of regulations

#New Delhi

The Economic Survey 2021-22 was tabled in Parliament on Monday by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman soon after the President's address to both Houses of Parliament. The survey, presented a day before the Union Budget, underlines the state of the economy and outlines suggestions for policy actions.

"India's GDP is projected to grow in real terms by 8.0-8.5% in 2022-23," said the Survey. Growth will be supported by "widespread vaccine coverage, gains from supply-side reforms and easing of regulations, robust export growth, and availability of fiscal space to ramp up capital spending," it added.

Women shop for jewellery at a market in Mumbai

Here are the key highlights:

- GDP growth rate projected in the range of 8-8.5% for the next fiscal 2022-23 (FY23)
- Growth projections based on oil price projection of $70-75 per barrel next fiscal, against current price of $90
- Agriculture least hit by pandemic, sector to grow by 3.9% in 2021-22 after growing 3.6% previous year
- Disruptions in global container market not yet over; will continue to impact the global sea trade.
- Crop diversification towards oilseeds, pulses and horticulture needs to be given priority
- Inflation: Eco Survey flags global resurgence of inflation, warns of imported inflation.
- The Survey went into detail on the government's use of the Barbell approach to covid, saying that this "helped make it possible to target the vulnerable sections/businesses better, keeping the pandemic's economic toll at much less than what could have been".
- Industrial sector may grow at 11.8%.
- Survey pegs services sector to see 8.2% growth in 2021-22
- Expenditure on social services rises by 9.8% to Rs 71.61 lakh crore in FY22
- Government consumption is estimated to grow by a strong 7.6% surpassing pre-pandemic levels.
- India's total exports are expected to grow by 16.5% in 2021-22 surpassing pre-pandemic levels.
- Imports are expected to grow by 29.4% in 2021-22
- Consumption has grown 7% in 2021-22 with a big chunk of it thanks to government spending.
- Middle-class borrowing to own houses well below the 21.1% growth year-on-year; also below the level of the last four years
- Pandemic, job uncertainty continues to make people wary of EMIs, with home loans registering 8% growth in November 2021, 0.4% below 2020.
- Railways: Rs 65,157 crore capital expenditure from April to November 2021; capex outlay in the ongoing financial year is at Rs 2.15 lakh crore, which is five times the 2014 level.
- "Railways capex will increase further in coming years and emerge as an engine of national growth," the survey says.
- India has third largest startup ecosystem in the world after US and China. Delhi saw 5,000 new startups vs 4,514 in Bengaluru between April 2019 and December 2021.
- India sees 44 unicorns in 2021, a new record.
- In April-November 2021 Rs 89,066 cr was raised via 75 IPO issues versus 29 firms that raised Rs 14,733 cr in the same period in 2020.
- Forex, low current account deficit and capital inflows keeping external sector well supported.
- 221 lakh individual Demat accounts added between April-November 2021
- UPI takes centre stage, with the country seeing 4.6 billion transactions worth Rs 8.26 lakh crore in December 2021 alone
- In April-November 2021, UPI processed more than 24.26 million One Time Mandate create transactions worth Rs 44,381 crore.
- Rs 1.81 lakh crore raised through equity issues
- "Rate transmission has been higher in public sector banks than in private sector banks in the current monetary easing cycle," says the Survey
- Housing sales expected to see a boost after COVID-19 slump on the back of reduced duties in multiple states
- Five sectors capture around 83% of aggregate pipeline value: Roads (27%), Railways (25%), Power (15%), Oil & Gas pipelines (8%) and Telecom (6%). – ET Online

Mamata blocks Guv Jagdeep Dhankhar's Twitter account

#Kolkatta

A day when Trinamool Congress leader in the Parliament formally told President Ram Nath Kovind to remove West Bengal Governor, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told in a press conference that she has blocked Dhankhar's twitter account making is clear that the ruling party will not leave any stones unturned in their battle against the Governor.

"I apologise for it in advance. He (Jagdeep Dhankhar) tweets something every day abusing me or my officers. Unconstitutional, unethical things, he says. He instructs and advises. Elected government has become bonded labour. That's why I have blocked him from my Twitter account. I was getting irritated every day," Banerjee said at a press conference on Monday.

Alleging that the governor has been sitting on files and continuously threatening his officers, the Chief Minister said, "I have written several letters to the PM about him. That he [Governor] is not listening and he is threatening everyone. I have even been to him and spoke with him. We have been patiently suffering for the past years. He has not cleared several files. He is keeping every file pending. How can he speak about policy decisions"? Accusing the governor of tapping phones, the Chief Minister said, "Why has the PM not removed him [Governor]? Pegasus is running from Governor house. He is tapping phones," she added.

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar with state Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

Minutes after the CM announced this, Dhankhar from his Twitter handle wrote: "Mandated under Article 159 of the Constitution to ensure none in the state 'blocks' Constitutional Norms and Rules of Law and those in authority bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution." – IANS

Ban on channel: Kerala HC stays I&B Min order

#Thiruvananthapuram

The Kerala High Court on Monday stayed the order issued to Malayalam TV news channel MediaOne by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, revoking its license to broadcast, till the next hearing on Wednesday.

"The implementation of impugned order shall be deferred till day after tomorrow," the order by Justice N. Nagaresh said.

Earlier on Monday, the TV channel's Editor Pramod Raman issued a statement saying that they have been instructed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that their channel is being taken off the air following some issues of security. He said they do not know the details and are seeking legal recourse. As soon as this message surfaced, top leaders belonging to the ruling CPI-M, the CPI, as well as the opposition Congress, and journalists' body KUWJ slammed the Centre's act of gagging the media and sought immediate lifting of the ban.

At the court hearing, Additional Solicitor General S. Manu objected to the passing of an interim order, but the court held that the broadcasting should not be disrupted till the case was decided. To this, Manu said that it was not an essential service, but the court decided otherwise. The ASG further contended that the Centre had adequate reasons to revoke the license. – PTI

EC extends ban on road shows, padayatras, rallies till Feb 11

#New Delhi

The Election Commission on Monday extended the Covid-induced ban on roadshows, 'padyatras', vehicle rallies and processions in the five poll-bound states till February 11, but relaxed norms for door-to-door campaigning and physical public meetings for all phases.

Among the new set of relaxations, the number of people allowed for door-to-door campaigning has been raised from 10 to 20, while a maximum of 1,000 people can attend physical public meetings.

The poll panel also allowed a maximum of 500 persons to attend indoor meetings from the present 300.

It said that during a virtual review meeting, all state chief secretaries informed the Commission about reports of Covid infection either plateauing out or tapering as on date.

They also said that the positivity rate is coming down and hospitalisation numbers are also registering a declining trend. "The state officers, however, said that Covid protocol precautions need to be continued to be observed so that no undue spurt takes place due to intense public contact because of heightened political activity," the Election Commission said in a statement. Inputs from the Union Health Secretary were also taken. The EC said that after a comprehensive review of the present Covid situation in the poll-bound states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, it has been decided that no roadshows, 'padyatras', and cycle, bike or vehicle rallies and processions will be allowed till February 11. The Commission also decided to allow physical public meetings in designated open spaces with a maximum of 1,000 people

A rally by UP CM Yogi Adityanath at Hapur, on Sunday

— PTI

HEALTH TIP: Diabetics can consume giloy juice in the morning to reduce blood sugar levels

Drinking too much lemon water can damage tooth enamel over time and increase risk of cavities

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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I was in a physical relationship with a woman for several months. Then we broke up. Lately, I've noticed a substantial amount of discharge when I ejaculate after masturbation. I also ejaculate very early. I fear this may affect my future sex life. What should I do? Are there medicines that can delay ejaculation and reduce the quantity of discharge?

Stop being a watchman! Instead of watching your genitals make wise use of your time. Your body can look after itself. If you feel you have an infection, visit your doctor. For premature ejaculation, visit a sexpert for treatment.

2 I am 44 years old, and I lost my wife five years ago. I have been single ever since, and I have no problems getting an erection. Recently, while trying to have sex with a friend of mine who is 35 years old, I ejaculated in two minutes. She did not like this at all, and was left unsatisfied by the act. This was an embarrassing episode and I don't want a repeat of it. What should I do to improve the situation?

Start doing Kegel exercises every day (for details, surf the net) and continue doing these exercises persistently. Make it a part of your daily routine. Identify if you have any anxiety either at your workplace or at home, and if so, try to de-stress and relax yourself. Visit a sexpert for further treatment.

3 What is the technical name of the test that one needs to conduct to check for STDs, and what are common symptoms?

Search on the Internet. After exposure, look out for burning urine, puss discharge from the urine passage, a painless ulcer on the penis, enlargement of glands in the groin etc.

MEET THE SEXPERTS

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Keep it cool with collagen

The natural protein present in our bodies is quickly emerging as a top ingredient in beauty routines. Derm explains why

Ria Bhatia
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Keeping up with the latest skincare trends and showing off that no-filter filtered skin has become the priority of all the beauty gals and guys. What follows? A serious tracking of what's in and what's 'it'. Speaking of which, collagen, as an ingredient, has been garnering a lot of attention. Why?

It's a naturally present protein in the body that predominantly controls the youthfulness of your skin but starts collapsing in quantity as you hit your mid 20s. Now you know why they advise you to kickstart your anti-ageing skincare journey between 25 and 28! Coming back to collagen – besides occurring in your body naturally, it can also be infused into the body through oral supplements and topical application of products. But why is collagen really that important? And what's the best way to feed your skin and body with collagen? Let's get to the crux.

What is collagen?

"Collagen is a structural protein present in the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons and of course skin. It is made up of amino acids namely Proline, Hydroxyproline, Glycine and Arginine," explains Dr Jaishree Sharad, celebrity dermatologist and author of Skin Rules.

"Collagen makes up approximately 30 per cent of the proteins within the body," she adds.

With collagen constituting such a huge proportion in our skin (the largest organ of the body), its importance in maintaining the skin's health is crystal clear.

"Collagen is a part of the connective tissue present in the skin and is found in its dermis. It forms the framework of our skin and is responsible for its firmness, elasticity and suppleness. It is also present in our hair and nails, making it responsible for their strength. It is like cement which holds everything together," says Dr Sharad.

Benefits

Stating a benefit or two of this super ingredient would be an impossible task, courtesy of its ability to replenish, repair and maintain the skin effectively. Collagen isn't just a wonder ingredient for ageing and maturing skin but also aids with improving the look of dry and sensitive skin that has lost lustre, plumpness and that natural firmness and glow.

"Collagen prevents sagging of skin, makes the skin look youthful and firm, reduces the size of pores, prevents fine lines and wrinkles plus prevents hair and nail breakage," shares Dr Sharad.

Best way to consume it

Beauty enthusiasts are divided into two teams when it comes to picking the best source of collagen between oral supplements (OTC) and topically applicable creams. We had to investigate what was better than the other and so we headed straight to the expert.

"There are only 19 studies on oral collagen done on a total of 1,125 patients. Hence, the evidence-based data is considered inadequate so far. However, these patients showed mild improvement in skin hydration and elasticity after taking oral collagen for 90 days," reveals Dr Sharad.

"However, the results of topical therapies to improve collagen over 3 months are significantly higher and scientifically proven. Hence, as of today, topical application of retinol, peptides, alpha hydroxy acids, treatments such as platelet-rich plasma, microneedling, non-ablative lasers are better options to build collagen," explains Dr Sharad.

"Orally, a good amount of proteins in the diet and amino acid supplements would be beneficial too," she adds.

When to start

Prevention is much better than cure, especially when it comes to skincare. Collagen anyway starts decreasing in the body over the course of life and due to factors like stress, sun exposure and an unhealthy diet. Eventually, the collagen production comes to a standstill and that might be too late for you to start injecting the ingredient into your body.

"Why should one wait till the building collapses? It is better to start anti-ageing products for your skin in your late twenties or early thirties. Skin ageing starts early and increases due to stress, smoking, pollution, lack of sleep, unhealthy diet, hormonal imbalance. So, timely skincare and a healthy lifestyle will take you a long way in looking youthful," says Dr Sharad.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Best uses of tea tree oil for beauty

Tea tree oil, a naturally derived essential oil from the tea tree plant, is packed with a bunch of skin and hair benefits like antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antimicrobial properties.

It is one of the most effective treatments to diminish and control acne. Besides taking care of active acne, it can also help in case of blemishes, zits, scars and marks that a pesky pimple can leave behind, thanks to its healing and sebum-controlling properties.

Dilute the oil before applying it to the skin. You can either add a drop or two of tea tree oil to your moisturiser or serum and apply it to the skin or dilute it with some witch hazel (about ¼ cup) and use it as a toner.

It is also great to combat inflammation of all types. It's anti-inflammatory properties help reduce redness, swelling and any irritation that come along with inflammation. You can mix it with some carrier oils and rub it over affected areas to soothe, calm and heal inflammation.

It can relieve you from itchy and flaky scalp. You can pair tea tree oil with coconut, almond or jojoba oil and massage it all over your scalp or pick a shampoo infused with it.

You can also add a drop or two of tea tree oil to your mouthwash and swish it in your mouth for freshness and good breath, and to retrench any budding infection.

—Ria Bhatia

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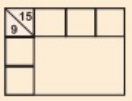
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

To get the result, put arithmetic action marks among the numerals without changing the order. If necessary, brackets (or double brackets) can be used and 2 or more numerals can be joined together (12, 23, 34, 45, 123 ...).

1 2 3 4 5 6 = 1

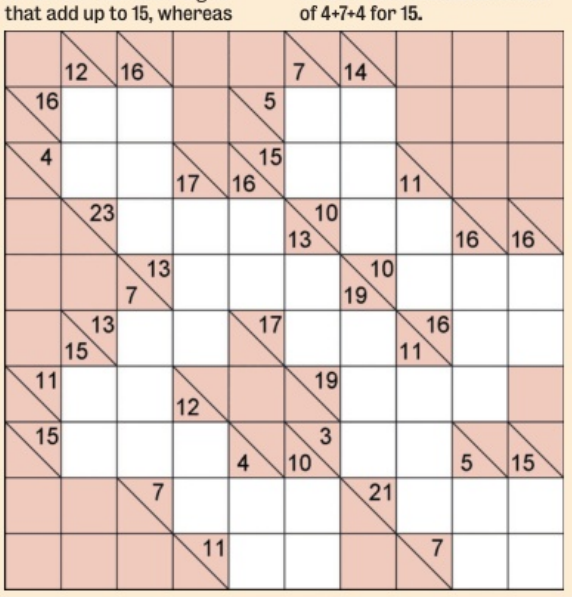
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

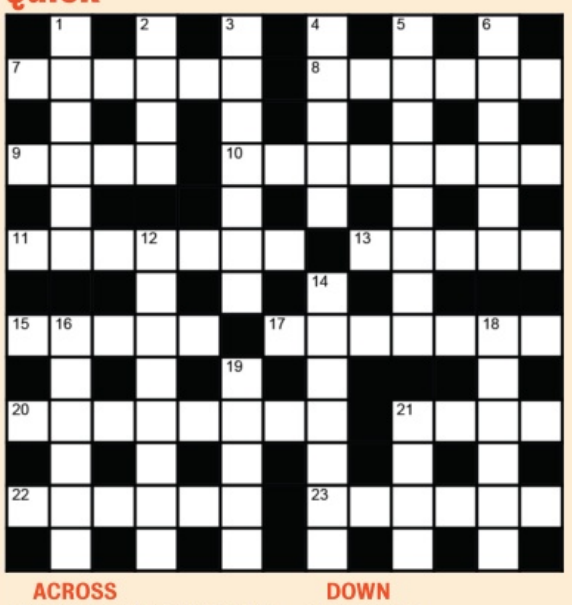


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 South American country (6)
8 Flat level surfaces? (6)
9 Hindu god of fire (4)
10 Methane variant (5-3)
11 Toiling or working hard (7)
13 Precipitous (5)
15 Fable (5)
17 Germ (7)
20 Withdraw to a safer place (8)
21 Purple ____ by Prince (4)
22 Speaks publicly (6)
23 Queen Elizabeth's second son (6)

DOWN

1 Sparing (6)
2 Shabana of Bollywood (4)
3 Discoverer of penicillin (7)
4 Separated (5)
5 Flexible tube for draining fluids (8)
6 Scold (6)
12 Truthfulness (8)
14 Multiplex on Outer Ring Road (7)
16 An inn (6)
18 Converted water to steam (6)
19 Severe (5)
21 Slender bars (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS O

XQUQB GQC KQWCQBPSK OWQ OY CRR AOJZ RT CRPSK.

Linemaro

I love the way you multitask everything

Mindchow

We never really grow up. We only learn how to act in public

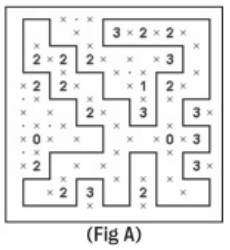
Joke of the day

Q. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A: At the bottom of the page

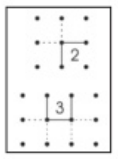
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

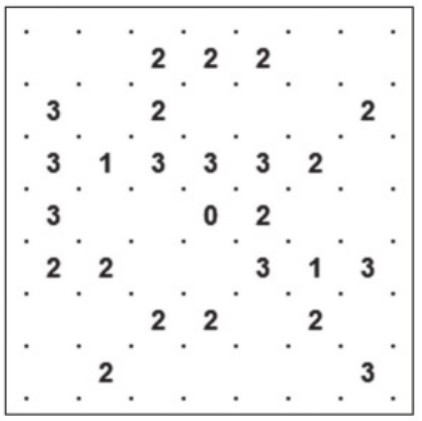


(Fig B) Not Allowed

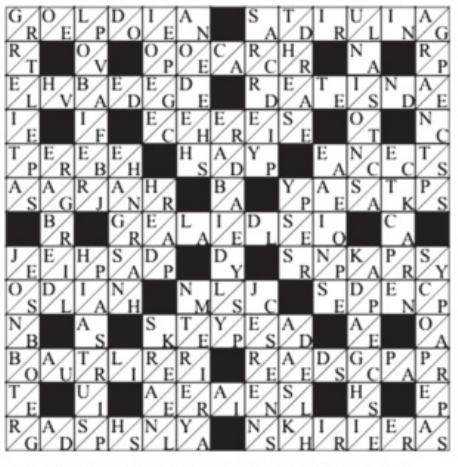
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



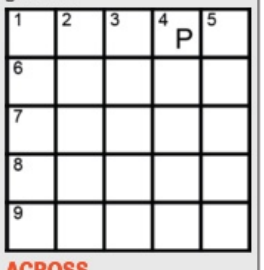
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

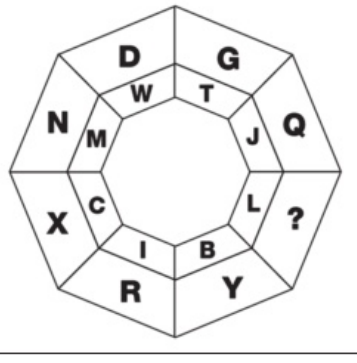
1 Scalp; 6 Ryder; 7 I noon; 8 Tents; 9 So Hug

DOWN

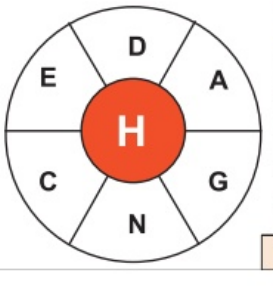
1 SOS Cr; 2 Olent; 3 A due I; 4 Or GNP; 5 Thy Sn

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

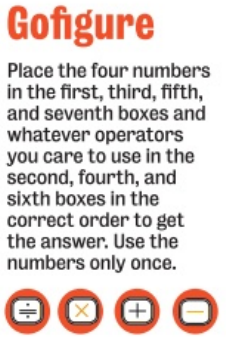
SudokuChallenge

		4				1		
8				2				6
	9	2	1		6	7	8	
		5	3	7	4	2		
		7	5	9	8	4		
	7	6	4		3	9	1	
4				1				3
		3				6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

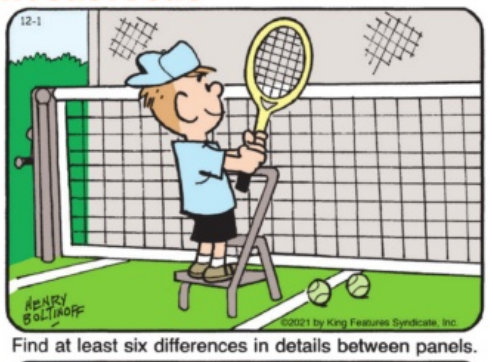


Easy = 8
3 3 5 7

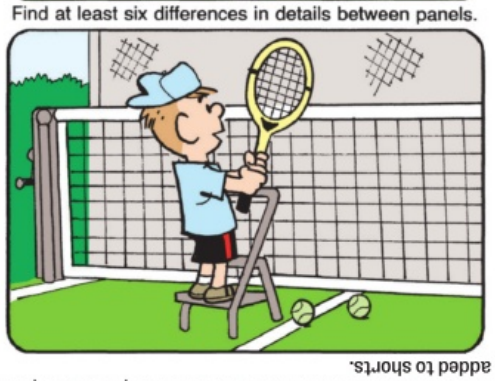
Medium = 3
2 4 4 6

Hard = 7
1 3 7 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



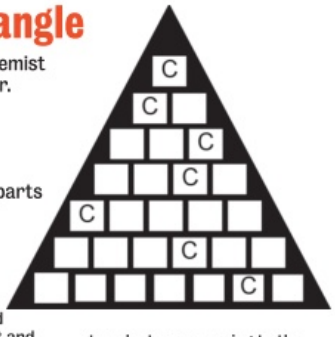
Differences: 1. Racket is different. 2. Sock is missing. 3. Ball is moved. 4. Sideline is moved. 5. Mouth is open. 6. Stripe is added to shorts.

Riddler

Who can't live without Spell Check in their email or word software? It's a great tool... Unless you are poor Paula Abdul who transforms into "Pail Abut" when the Spell Checker has at her. The following TV and Movie Celebrities have been Spell Checked and are ready for you to uncover their true identities. 1. Mercy Stripe 2. Deli Moose 3. Camera Dies 4. Renew Sewage

Alpha triangle

1 Carbon for the chemist
2 Common Era, abbr.
3 Of wine, dry
4 Denomination
5 Heraldic device
6 Instants
7 Divide into three parts



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

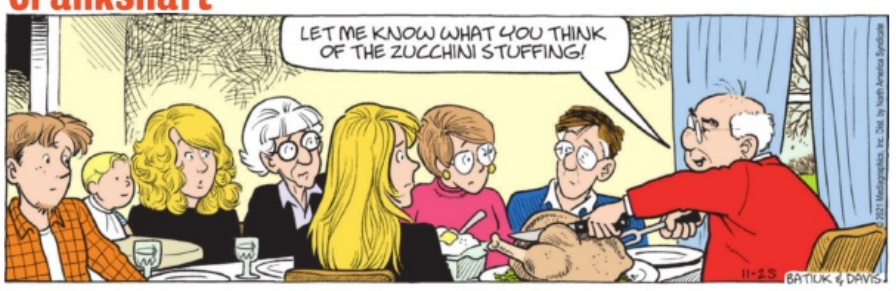
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE COME TO ASK FOR MY DEAR DAUGHTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE AGAIN...
ARE YOU KIDDING?! I'VE DECIDED YOUR DAUGHTER ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!
I'D LIKE TO EXCHANGE THIS BOOK ON REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY FOR ONE ON FIRST AID!
BOOK SHOPPE
11-18

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be satisfied with work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious place to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull; it is advised to keep your mind cool; it's a golden rule for you to think twice before acting. You may travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose your money. You are also advised to avoid to go for an adventure tour. Students are advised to go for an in-depth study to get success.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel good; domestic harmony may make you happy. You are likely to meet some influential person to get some benefits on the work front. You are likely to perform well in your job; you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes in inherited property may settle down.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be healthy; you may be able to focus on your goals; your performance may be very good at work; your boss may be happy with you; you may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in any legal matter. You are likely to control your opponents and business rivals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may prefer gaining knowledge; you may understand the value of an intellectual asset. Sometimes, you may control your short temper which may help you to perform your task smoothly. There may be some chances in smooth earnings which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. You are likely to spend money for love once. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel negativity around you. You may find your responsibilities a burden. You may be in a hurry to complete the task given to you. You may make silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may be slowed down, which may affect your day-to-day work. Your projects are likely to be delayed; it may affect your professional life. You are advised to take advice from your elders or consultants before taking any important decision.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic; you may be more focused; which may speed up your postponed projects. Your subordinates may help you to start a new project, which may give you profit in near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job-seekers may hear good news in terms of a job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity in your office or at home which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members for marriage. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your willpower may help you to start some new innovation on the work front. You are likely to get a big order in your parental business which will increase growth in the business in the near future. New responsibilities in your job may make you busy; job-seekers might get a good job. Understanding with the spouse may be improved, which can maintain harmony in the family life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may face health issues which may make you inpatient. You may spend your hard-earned money in buying worthless stuff. You are advised to control your short temper. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be a break-up.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may meet some influential person who may help you with the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas in to your work or business. You may plan to invest more capital in your business which may give you financial gains in the near future. In terms of domestic life, you will be busy in family get-togethers and social events.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work; you may get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may increase now. Overworking your mind may make you tired; due to workload, you may not be able to reach some family event.

KIDZONE

Ananya Vastare, 7 Years, Insight Academy

Naziya U Khan, 9 Years, B Mona High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
1. Meryl Streep,
2. Demi Moore,
3. Cameron Diaz,
4. Renee Zellweger

BULL'S EYE
ache, ached, change, CHANGED, each, hand, hang, hanged, head

FAST FIVE

C	L	A	P	S
R	E	D	R	Y
O	N	I	O	N
S	T	E	N	T
S	O	U	G	H

QUOTE UNCODE
Never let yesterday use up too much of today.

STRIKE OUT

R	A	S	H	L	Y	S	K	I	E	R	S			
G	O	L	D	E	N	S	T	R	U	N	G			
R	O	P	O	A	C	H	N	N	R					
E	V	A	D	E	D	R	E	T	I	N	A			
T	R	E	E	S	A	P	A	N	E	T				
E	F	E	E	R	I	E	O	N						
B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	I	E	S				
E	U	E	R	I	E	S	H	E						
R	O	O	T	E	D	C	A	P						
B	A	K	E	Y	E	D	A	O						
O	D	I	N	M	L	C	S	P	E	C				
J	I	H	A	D	D	S	N	A	P	S				
B	G	A	L	I	L	E	O	A						
S	A	R	A	H	B	P	E	S	T	S				
T	R	E	E	S	A	P	A	N	E	T				
E	F	E	E	R	I	E	O	N						
E	V	A	D	E	D	R	E	T	I	N	A			
R	O	O	T	E	D	C	H	N	N	R				
G	O	L	D	E	N	S	T	R	U	N	G			

QUICK

N		Y		H		X		S		D				
B	R	A	Z	I	L		P	L	A	N	E	S		
	U		M		E		A		T		R			
A	G	N	I		M	A	R	S	H	G	A	S		
			I				T		E		T			
S	L	A	V	I	N	G		S	T	E	E	P		
			E		G		C				E			
S	T	O	R	Y		M	I	C	R	O	B	E		
	A		A		H		N		O					
E	V	A	C	U	A	T	E		R	A	I	N		
	E		I		R		M		O		L			
O	R	A	T	E	S		A	N	D	R	E	W		
B	R	A	Z	I	L		P	L	A	N	E	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
0. In each segment of the diagram are a pair of letters, one of which is the same distance from the start of the alphabet as the other is from the end.

SOLVE IN 1M
1+2+3-4+5-6=1
(12/3)-4-5+6=1
12-3*4-5+6 =1

SUDOKU

1	8	3	9	5	2	6	7	4
4	2	9	6	1	7	8	5	3
5	7	6	4	8	3	9	1	2
2	3	7	5	9	8	4	6	1
9	4	8	2	6	1	5	3	7
6	1	5	3	7	4	2	9	8
3	9	2	1	4	6	7	8	5
8	5	1	7	2	9	3	4	6
7	6	4	8	3	5	1	2	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, CE, Sec, Sect, Crest, Trices, Trisect.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 7 – 5 + 3 = 8
Medium
6 + 4 + 2 / 4 = 3
Hard
3 – 3 x 1 + 7 = 7

KAKURO

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LOVE THAT DESIGN

B-Town brides whose wedding mehendi designs stood out

Mehendi is an important function at some Indian weddings. Whenever a celeb ties the knot, they never fail to give us a glimpse of their mehendi. From colour to the design, everything is spot on. Since the wedding season is on, we offer you glimpses of celeb brides and their mehendi designs that will inspire you.

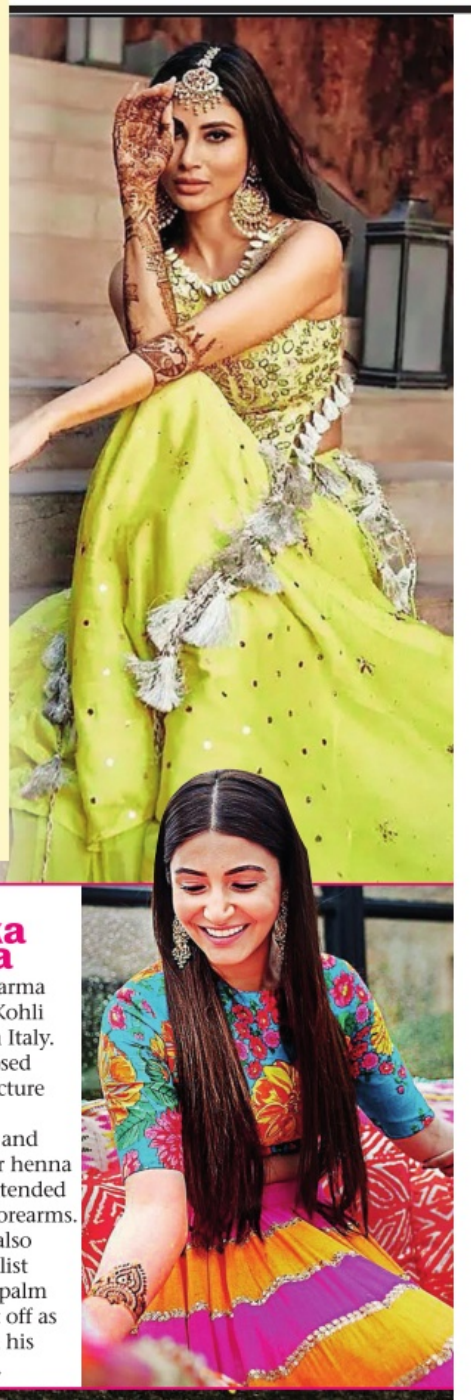
Katrina Kaif

After tying the knot in December, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal jetted off to the Maldives for their honeymoon. The actress shared a photo of her outstretched arms with intricate mehendi on them and the wedding 'chooda' on her wrists. Fans were quick to notice Vicky's name written vertically in small circles. The actress captioned the picture with a red heart emoji.

Mouni Roy

Last week, Mouni Roy tied the knot with Suraj Nambiar. The actress has been sharing a series of photos from the wedding festivities. But what caught

our attention is her bridal mehendi. In the new pic, Mouni was seen flaunting 'SN' - Suraj Nambiar's initials in her mehendi design. How adorable is this!



Anushka Sharma

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli got married in Italy. The actress posed for a lovely picture in a colourful floral lehenga and showcased her henna design that extended down to her forearms. Her husband also had a minimalist design on his palm and showed it off as he posed with his gorgeous wife.

Sonam Kapoor

Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja tied the knot in a lavish wedding in Mumbai. The actress' henna was applied till her elbows. Sonam had requested that elephant and lotus designs be incorporated into her mehendi design as they were meaningful to her and her husband Anand Ahuja.

Yami Gautam

Yami Gautam and director Aditya Dhar got married last year. The actress posted a series of pictures from her mehendi ceremony. She was seen wearing an orange salwar-kameez. Yami had kept her mehendi design subtle yet beautiful. She had also penned a note about finding love. "O dear one, why worry ? What is meant for you will always, always find you-- Lalleshwari," the star captioned the post.

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra's mehendi had personalised references to her relationship with Nick Jonas. In reference to her musician husband, her henna artist created a guitar on the top of her right hand. Overall, she kept the design traditional with motifs like peacocks, paisleys and flowers on it.

Infidelity is a 'deal-breaker'

Deepika Padukone will soon be seen in 'Gehraiyaan', which explores complex relationships, betrayal and infidelity. In a recent interview, DP opened up about her take on a partner who is cheating on her. The actress stated that it is a deal-breaker for her.

"It's a deal-breaker for me. Though I feel like it's far more complicated than just giving a straightforward answer like 'Oh it's a deal-breaker for me', I think there are so many factors that come into play. Like 'how much does that relationship mean to you,' 'how much are both people willing to work at it,' 'was it a mistake', 'is it a habit', I think there's just so many things that come into play. People make mistakes. A lot of times people make the choices that they do for various reasons," Deepika had said.

Deepika cheats on her partner in 'Gehraiyaan'. However, director Shakun Batra had shared that the characters in this film don't cheat under the garb of finding true love. He had said, affairs can happen because you find someone who helps you find yourself. **—ETimes**

We heard it through the grapevine

Hear that? It is the sound of hearts breaking as reports claim, Hrithik Roshan has found love again. Over the weekend, the star was seen leaving a dinner date with a dame who the internet revealed, was actress Saba Azad. Interestingly, when our bees reached out to the actress, she didn't particularly deny the claim... Interesting much? Well, you can imagine our surprise when word got around that Hrithik has been keeping this romance under the radar for MONTHS! Apparently, their friendship blossomed into something 'special' just last month, as they enjoyed some quiet time amidst the sun and sand. **—ETimes**